IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method (21) particularly for use in a medical environment, to develop an executable template (16e) of an image processing protocol (18), said method comprising the steps of:

- creating a set of anatomical marks (13a,13b) in an image (17b), said marks having respective associated image positions;
- combining said marks (13a,13b) to form geometric objects (13c,13d);
- defining a sequence of operations with said geometric objects by means of an interactive protocol editor (16), wherein each operation is logged as an entry (16d) in a geometrical relational application framework macro;
- storing said sequence of operations in said template (16f).

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein for creating a set of anatomical marks an interactive graphical toolbox (12) is provided for purposes of defining the associated image positions.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of creating a set of anatomical marks is performed automatically based on pixel values of an area of interest (17a') within the image.

4. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein a location of the area of interest (17a') is determined from a pre-stored look-up table comprising image coordinates of the area of interest corresponding to a type of the image processing protocol for said image.

5. (original) A method according to claim 3, wherein a location of the area of interest (17a') is determined from a further look-up table arranged to store a plurality of linkings of the area of interest to reference objects within the image.

6. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of combining said marks (13a,13b) to form geometric objects (13c,13d) is performed by means of an interactive graphical editor (14a).

7. (original) A method according to claim 6, wherein each geometric object (13c) is assigned a directional linking to other objects (13d) to form relational geometric objects.

8. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein for defining a sequence of operations (16d) with said geometric objects by means of an interactive editor (16) use is made of a set of connected graphical toolkit blocks (12,14a,14b).

9. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the operations are selected from a list of pre-stored operations (18).

10. (currently amended) A device (10) arranged to carry out the steps of the method according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~claim 1, said device comprising:

- means (12) for creating a set of anatomical marks (13a,13b) in an image (17b), said marks having respective associated image positions;
- means (14a) for combining said marks to form geometric objects (13c,13d);
- means (16) for defining a sequence of operations with said geometric objects by means of an interactive protocol editor, wherein each operation is logged as an entry (16d) in a geometrical relational application framework macro;
- means (7,16f) for storing said sequence of operations in said template.

11. (original) A medical examination apparatus (1) comprising the device according to claim 10.

12. (currently amended) A computer program arranged to carry out the steps of the method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 9~~claim 1.

13. (original) A computer program according to claim 12 comprising a user interface (5c) arranged to echo the steps of the method to the user.

14. (original) A computer program particularly for use in a medical environment to carry out automated customized image handling, said computer program comprising:

- means for selecting a pre-stored template (18) of an image processing protocol from a plurality of pre-stored templates, said template comprising a sequence of operations (16d) with a plurality of reference geometrical objects (13c,13d), said sequence being logged as a plurality of instructions within a geometrical relational application framework macro, said objects being defined for a plurality of reference marks (13a,13b);
- means for entering a plurality of actual marks for an actual image;

- means for constructing actual geometrical objects for the actual image by means of referencing the actual marks to the reference marks;
- means for executing the sequence of operations on the actual geometrical objects.

15. (original) A computer program according to claim 14, wherein means for the selecting of the pre-stored template is arranged to address a database (18) of templates.

16. (original) A computer program according to claim 15, wherein the computer program further comprises:
- means for customizing the sequence of operations on the actual geometrical objects by means of a connected graphical toolkit (12,14a,14b).

17. (original) A computer program according to claim 14, wherein means for entering a plurality of actual marks comprises a graphical input device (5b,12).

18. (original) A computer program according to claim 14, wherein said computer program comprises means for defining a position of an

actual mark from a pixel value of an area of interest (17a') within the actual image.

19. (currently amended) A computer program according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 14-18~~claim 14, wherein said computer program comprises a user interface (5c) arranged to interactively communicate to the user.

20. (currently amended) A device comprising a computer program according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 14-19~~claim 14.

21. (original) A medical examination apparatus comprising the device according to claim 20.